

Missouri Behavioral Health Epidemiological Workgroup Year 2 Report

The Missouri Behavioral Health Epidemiological Workgroup (BHEW) grew out of the efforts of the State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW) that was formed under the SPF SIG grant with funding from SAMHSA. The workgroup contains members from ADA, its sister agency Comprehensive Psychiatric Services (CPS), and other state agencies such as Health and Senior Services, Social Services, Highway Patrol, State Courts Administrator and Elementary and Secondary Education. There are also several members from Missouri's higher education entities.

A primary goal of the workgroup is to use data to assist in behavioral health prevention by disseminating it to those working in the prevention field. This report will look at Year 2 progress on that goal.

Products

The grant required that several data products be developed and disseminated across the state. In addition, Missouri chose to develop a series of hot topic briefs and a data querying website.

All products were disseminated to a list serve that included the coalitions, the Regional Support Centers who provide TA to the coalition and any interested party which asked to be added to the list. The list has 262 email addresses as of the writing of this report. They are also available online at <http://dmh.mo.gov/ada/mobhew/index.htm>.

The BHEW Product Survey was sent to the list serve August 2012; 28 people responded. Comments on the workgroup products as a whole were:

"It's great that you are providing this data. It's very useful in developing long-range programming based on county needs."

"I have appreciated receiving the info - please keep it up!"

"You are all doing a fantastic job."

"thank you!! this is really needed!!!"

"I think the BHEW is wonderful and very helpful not only to the communities, but prevention and public health staff. Great job!"

"I think the webinars are a great way for our government to save on expenses and be informative."

Data Querying Website

The website went live in June of 2012, allowing users to query 6 databases; National Survey on Drug Use and Health, Census, Missouri Student Survey, Department of Mental Health's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment data, Department of Mental Health's Center for Psychiatric Services Treatment data, and State Agency data . As available, users can obtain county level or subpopulation data. Data can also be exported to use in other products or included in additional data analysis.

In addition to the announcement on the listserve, presentations on the website have been given to a variety of groups. A presentation was also given at Missouri's statewide conference. For more information on these, see the "Presentations" section below.

Data on page clicks is currently available for the first two months that it was live. It received 16,555 hits in June and 16,166 hits in July.

Although there is a very large number of page hits, according to the Product Survey, only 18% of respondents had seen the data querying website. That was to be expected as the website had only recently went live as of the time of the survey. However, of those who had seen the data querying website, the majority both used it to help in the daily work and recommended it to other people.

When those who had not seen it were asked if they planned to use it in the future, 30% indicated that they would as soon as they received further training and 55% indicated that they knew they'd be using it to fulfill a future need. Additional training was provided through an online webinar, a walk through document and will be provided in person at future meetings.

Hot Topic Briefs

A total of 8 hot topic briefs were developed in Year 2, supplementing the 4 developed in Year 1. These were one page documents designed to be easily understandable by someone without any prevention or statistical background. Some of the topics include drunk driving, suicide, peer substance use and synthetic drug use.

The Product Survey showed that 68% of respondents were familiar with the briefs. Of those who had seen them, 78% had used it in the daily work in the last year and 74% forwarded them to other people.

A Regional Support Center staff member wrote the following about Missouri's briefs:

"I just wanted to let you know how grateful our support center is to have these documents! The fact sheets are easily distributable and have proven to be very effective at making our community members come to us and ask more questions."

More questions about youth use and community issues means more interest in prevention programming.”

State Level Profile

The State Epidemiological Profile is a larger document that provided comprehensive review of the current data on substance abuse and mental health (where available) across the state, including subpopulation data where possible. In addition, it discussed some of the Risk and Protective Factor data that is available for the state and ended with a discussion of what data gaps still need to be addressed.

According to the Product Survey, 61% of the respondents have seen the state profile. Of those people, 88% used it in their work in the last year and the same number recommended it to someone else.

County Level Profiles

A total of 115 County Level Profiles were developed; one for every county in the state and one for the City of St. Louis. These profiles were a two page summary of the current data on substance abuse and mental health in each geographical area. Profiles were originally developed in Year 1 and then updated with currently available data in Year 2.

The Product Survey shows that 68% have seen at least one county profile in the last year. Of those people, 89% of them used it in their work and almost all of them (94%) have recommended them to another person. These numbers indicate that the County Level Profiles are the most used products of Year 2.

Presentations

In addition to the data documents being produced, the group has also organized a variety of live presentations.

The majority of the presentations given in Year 2 were demonstrations of the website. These presentations were:

- ACT MO Conference – 12/13/11
- Spring Training Conference – 5/31/12
- State Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting (ADA) – 6/6/12
- Regional Support Center Meeting – 7/10/12

- State Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting (CPS) – 8/23/12

Approximately 150 people were reached through these presentations. Feedback was delivered in person and was overwhelmingly positive.

Webinar series

A “How to Use Data for the Novice User” webinar series was developed in the spring of 2012 to train prevention workers on how to appropriately use data. The series had produced 3 webinars to date with plans to continue. Each webinar was approximately 15-20 minutes in length to allow users to fit them into a busy schedule and recorded for those who needed to watch it at a later date.

Results have been somewhat mixed on the webinar series. One person commented in Product Survey that *“I really appreciate the webinars that discuss hot topics. This is an excellent way for me to increase education in communities about issues I know that they are specifically interested in.”* and 9 people reported recommending the webinars to other people. However, only one person indicated that they use the webinars in their own work.

When asked on the survey, 82% did indicate that they’d like to participate in future skill development webinars. As initial feedback from the first webinar indicated that the material may have been too basic, state staff began offering more advanced knowledge with “How to Use Excel to Work with Data”. This webinar had higher attendance and more interest, indicating that future webinars should attempt to disseminate more information along these lines while remaining at a level that encourages coalition people to participate.